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Statement

of

Drug Enforcement Administration
U. S. Department of Justice

before

Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Barry M. Goldwater, Chairman

July 14, 1982

Original CL By G. A. Spring
Review On July 8, 2002

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I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you, Mr. Chairman, to discuss the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Intelligence Program and interagency cooperation in furtherance of our drug law enforcement mission. I welcome this chance to endorse the need for a strong, coordinated United States Government approach to dealing with the worldwide drug problem. (U)

The United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs reports that drug abuse has reached epidemic proportions worldwide and continues to grow each year. Our National Narcotics Intelligence Consumers Committee estimates that abundant supplies of foreign-source drugs continue to enter the United States. These drugs and the profits derived from them have a devastating effect on our society and economy. Therefore, a concentrated, cooperative effort by all concerned agencies to combat the drug problem in the United States is imperative at this time. (U)

Illicit drugs generated an estimated \$79 billion in retail sales in the United States during 1980, up 22% from 1979*;

* Unless otherwise indicated, the data contained herein are from the Narcotics Intelligence Estimate published by the National Narcotics Intelligence Consumers Committee.

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the enormous profits make drug trafficking an attractive venture, which some people believe is worth the risks inherent in such an illegal enterprise. I believe that the United States Government must increase those risks. This can be accomplished in part through increased cooperation between Federal agencies. The United States Government commands vast resources which could be effectively targeted against drug trafficking. I applaud recent efforts to utilize those resources to increase the interdiction of foreign-source drugs before they reach our shores and to increase the likelihood that drug traffickers will be apprehended and brought to our criminal justice system or that of another country. (U)

The mission of DEA is to enforce the controlled substance laws and regulations of the United States. Our ultimate goal is elimination of cultivation, production, and storage of illicit drugs; elimination of diversion of licitly manufactured drugs; interdiction of illicit drugs destined for the United States; and immobilization of the major international trafficking organizations. DEA's intelligence activities play an integral part in fulfilling this mission. (U)

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The employees in DEA's Intelligence Program are assigned to three major areas: Headquarters, field offices -- domestic and foreign, and the El Paso Intelligence Center. The Headquarters staff concentrates on providing support to investigations of major drug trafficking organizations. Headquarters personnel are also the major component of DEA's strategic intelligence effort which provides assessments, estimates, and warnings on drug availability trends. Central to this effort is the National Narcotics Intelligence Consumers Committee, which is chaired by DEA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for Intelligence. The committee is comprised of representatives of the DEA, the U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Defense, U.S. Customs Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service, National Institute on Drug Abuse, Department of State, Department of the Treasury, and The White House. Representatives of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and National Security Agency (NSA) participate as observers. The committee members share data and intelligence and arrive at the most comprehensive estimate available on the supply of drugs to the illicit U.S. market as well as the money flows associated with this traffic. The committee publishes the annual Narcotics Intelligence Estimate and also coordinates and publishes intelligence collection requirements, which form the basis for intelligence collection efforts. (U)

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Approximately half of the program's employees are dedicated to intelligence duties in domestic field offices strategically located throughout the United States. These personnel provide support to enforcement operations; their immediate responsibility is the collection and analysis of intelligence related to drug trafficking organizations operating within their geographic area of responsibility. When the investigation involves areas beyond their jurisdiction, staff from either Headquarters or other appropriate field offices provide assistance. (U)

The primary function of DEA personnel stationed outside the United States is intelligence collection; activities of these personnel add significantly to the strength of the total DEA Intelligence Program. These personnel gather intelligence on foreign cultivation and production and the trafficking of drugs to the United States. As a member of the United States Embassy team in drug-source countries, DEA provides intelligence to support the mission's programs to control the production of drugs. (U)

Both domestic and foreign field intelligence personnel regularly exchange intelligence with and provide support to their counterparts in other agencies. Domestically, DEA is mandated by law to support State and local law enforcement efforts. In

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many foreign countries, our support contributes significantly to the success of major interdiction and eradication campaigns. Intelligence exchange is viewed as a critical function for all DEA personnel. (U)

The El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) provides continuous intelligence support to consumers at the Federal level and to State and local governments. EPIC's primary responsibilities are the exchange of time-sensitive information dealing principally with drug movement, and intelligence support to the programs of participating agencies, such as the smuggling of aliens and weapons. EPIC has been the conduit for much of the recent exchange of intelligence between DEA and other agencies. EPIC is a cooperative effort staffed by approximately 70 DEA personnel and 40 personnel from eight other Federal agencies (Immigration and Naturalization Service; U. S. Coast Guard; U. S. Customs Service; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; Federal Aviation Administration; Federal Bureau of Investigation; U. S. Marshals Service; and the Internal Revenue Service). (U)

A pillar of DEA's effort is the interdiction of drugs at their source rather than after they arrive in the United States. This approach results in a greater impact being made since quantities seized at their source are much larger

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and purer than on the streets of United States cities. Our cooperative efforts with foreign countries to bring about a reduction in drug cultivation, processing, and trafficking have resulted in numerous successes, ranging from the curtailment of methaqualone production in Austria and Hungary to Colombia's recent interdiction of large shipments of marihuana and cocaine destined for the Southeastern United States. Programs of this nature have received the highest level of support from this Administration. Diplomatic efforts of the Department of State have been crucial to our success, but as extensive as these efforts are, a coordinated Federal strategy must include other approaches. (U)

Interdiction efforts on the high seas, along our borders, and at points of entry have been expanded to complement international initiatives. This is an area in which the resources of other agencies can do much to complement and support the activities of DEA. For example, the U.S. Coast Guard intercepts maritime drug smugglers on the high seas. To assist in the monitoring of suspect vessel movements in the Caribbean, the Coast Guard provides information relating to the use of radio communications by suspected drug traffickers to the Federal Communications Commission who, as a result of appropriate follow-up inquiry, is frequently able to locate the position of the transmitter. If the

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transmitter is determined to be aboard a vessel, the information is provided to EPIC where it is cross-checked with the interagency data bases for further information before being returned to the Coast Guard. The analyzed data assist in providing justification for searching, and frequently seizing, drug-laden vessels. The Coast Guard is effective both as a law enforcement force and as a highly visible deterrent to drug smugglers. Intelligence has shown repeatedly that the presence of a strong enforcement force can significantly reduce or alter drug trafficking. (C/NOFORN)

The U.S. Customs Service also plays an important role in our Federal drug enforcement program. Customs serves as the primary anti-smuggling force at ports of entry and along our land and water borders. Customs is utilizing both airborne and land-based radar to assist them in detecting and intercepting aircraft entering the United States and are also using radio direction finding equipment on a test basis to locate suspect vessels. This information is processed through EPIC in the same manner as that received from the U. S. Coast Guard. (U)

Since the amendment to the Posse Comitatus Act, we have been aggressively working with the Department of Defense (DOD) to

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develop procedures whereby the resources of the military can be used to support the United States drug enforcement program. DEA, the U. S. Coast Guard, U. S. Customs and DOD have been meeting regularly and have reached accord on ways in which DOD elements can best support drug law enforcement -- without interfering with their principal mission. DOD Directive Number 5525.5 regarding DOD cooperation with civilian law enforcement officials was issued on March 22, 1982. As a result, Navy units are alert to detect vessels in the Caribbean and along the Atlantic Coast which meet the profile of drug smuggling vessels or are on lookout. Several helicopters have been loaned to both Customs and DEA, along with several other types of specialized equipment. (U)

Many other agencies impact on the drug law enforcement activities of DEA, from the hundreds of State and local law enforcement agencies with which we work in domestic investigations to the Department of State, which impacts primarily upon our foreign program. Recently the National Security Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency and the military have increased their support to our drug law enforcement mission.

(C/NOFORN)

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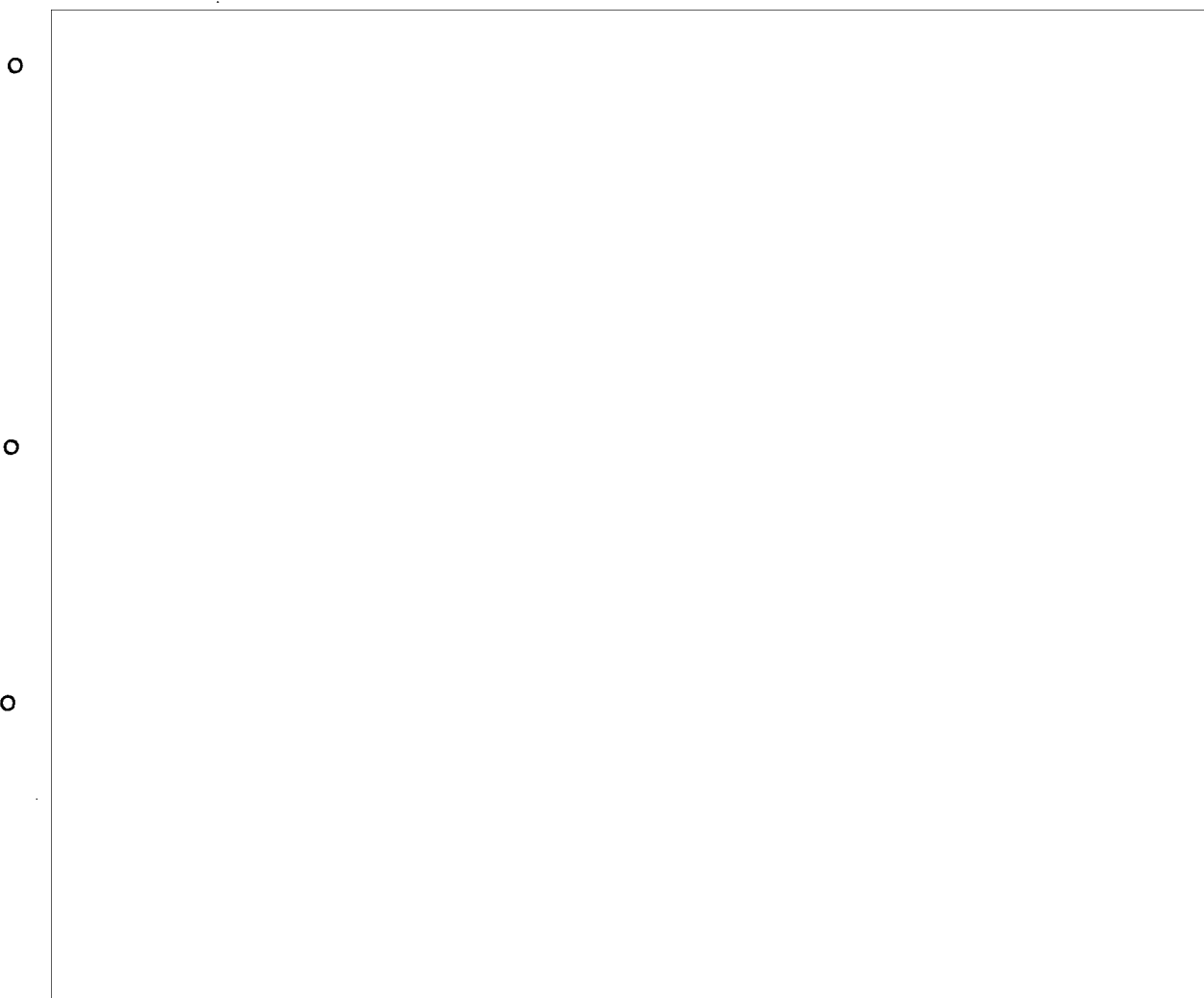
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The National Security Agency (NSA) has undertaken several initiatives in cooperation with DEA which are designed to enhance and augment our Government's investigative capabilities through the use of technical devices and specialized expertise. (S/SI/NOFORN)

These cooperative efforts are exemplified by several recent developments.



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Most of the initiatives I have described today are only in the preliminary stages. The results will serve as a foundation for the development of formal procedures which will govern future

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(S/SI/NOFORN)

Likewise, the relationship between DEA and the CIA is one of mutual trust and confidence. Since July 1981, we have renewed our efforts to improve and strengthen our working relationship.

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There are frequent meetings and weekly telephone contacts. The CIA has significantly contributed to the narcotics effort in the area of estimates of opium production. They have provided us with information relating to production in the Golden Triangle, Mexico and Southwest Asia. However, information regarding Southwest Asia has been less detailed than that relating to other areas due in part to higher priorities assigned to other intelligence collection requirements. DEA and the State Department are relying heavily on the CIA for such production estimates because of the difficulty in obtaining consistently accurate figures from human sources. The CIA is also collecting and providing strategic narcotics intelligence to DEA in the form of situation reports relating to activities in major producing countries throughout the world. (S/NOFORN)

In cooperation with DEA and the FBI, the CIA is developing the capability to obtain intelligence relating to the flow of narcotics-related dollars throughout the world. The ultimate goal is to obtain a better understanding of how and where money is being transferred and to identify possible locations where drug-related assets are vulnerable to seizure and forfeiture. For its part, DEA is continuing to provide the CIA with strategic narcotics intelligence primarily through our periodic publications. As a by-product of our narcotics enforcement activities, other

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types of information such as terrorism, movement of weapons and political corruption are also being provided. (S/NOFORN)

The CIA recently sponsored a three-day conference on the involvement of the Government of Cuba in drug trafficking. This was an excellent opportunity for agencies to exchange intelligence and perspectives on what had previously been only suspected to be a problem. As information was developed, it was concluded that the Cuban Government does in fact take an active role or sanction international drug trafficking. (S/NOFORN)

In summary, we are pleased with the spirit of cooperation which has been exhibited by the CIA and anticipate an even closer working relationship in the future. In our opinion, the current Memorandum of Understanding between DEA and CIA is adequate. The CIA, however, has expressed several concerns and we are currently working with them in the development of some additional operating guidelines. (S/NOFORN)

We have many challenges ahead. However, I am optimistic that we are on the right road. Because drug availability and drug-related violence are high at a time when it is essential that we conserve law enforcement resources, there is every reason for pessimism. But we are forging ahead with innovative,

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well-planned initiatives. The United States is starting to use more of the resources at its disposal to combat the drug situation. The White House is preparing a Federal Strategy on Drug Law Enforcement. The Vice President is heading a Task Force in South Florida to counter rampant drug availability and violence. DOD, CIA, and NSA are beginning to use their resources in heretofore untested ways to support the Federal drug law enforcement effort. DEA's operations have been re-examined and in some cases reorganized and the resources of the FBI have been targeted against drug trafficking. (C/NOFORN)

I am hopeful that these efforts will result in an impact on drug availability. It will be some time before we can quantify the results, but drug traffickers have received the message that the United States does not treat their activities lightly. Drug trafficking operations are definitely being disrupted. There is still an enormous fight ahead, but with the support of the Congress and the Administration -- and I do not want to underrepresent the importance of the courts -- much is being done. I am hopeful that next year I will be able to report to you that much was accomplished. (U)

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